

CLAIMS

1. A method for configuring the storage capacity of a recording apparatus used for storing at least one AV content item, the method comprising:
- 5 - storing (104) a content item;
- reproducing (106) the stored content item for review by a user;
- while reproducing the stored content item, analysing (108) the reproduction of the content item to identify the occurrence of a pre-determined condition;
- 10 - where a pre-determined condition occurs (110), prompting (112) the user for a response; and
- configuring (116) the storage capacity used for storing the content item according to the user response.
- 15 2. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the stored content item is a recording of a live broadcast content item and is reproduced contemporaneously with the live broadcast content item.
3. A method as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the pre-determined
- 20 condition comprises identifying the end of the content item.
4. A method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the content item comprises video and the end of the item is identified by detecting credits present at the end of the item.
- 25 5. A method as claimed in Claim 3 or 4 wherein the pre-determined condition further comprises identifying the start of the content item and the user is prompted when both the start and end of the content item have been identified.

6. A method as claimed in any preceding Claim wherein the storage capacity used for storing the content item is configured to maintain storage of the content item in the case where there is no user response to the prompt.

5 7. A method as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the stored content item is a recording of a rented content item and a subsequent reproduction of which is conditional on an authorisation.

8. A method as claimed in Claim 6 or 7 wherein storage is maintained for a pre-determined period of time.
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9. A method as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 5 wherein configuring the storage capacity is the release of said capacity.

15 10. A method as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the release is conditional on archiving the content item.

11. An AV content recording apparatus configured in its operations to perform the method as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 10, the apparatus comprising :
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- an input (202) arranged to receive a content item;
- a store (204) operable to store the content item and to reproduce the content item under the direction of a processor (216);
- a first output (206) arranged to output the reproduced content item;
- 25 - a second output (208) arranged to output a prompt signal;
- a user interface (210, 212) operable to render the prompt signal and to accept user inputs;
- a receiver device (214) operable to receive a response from the user interface; and
- 30 - a processor (216), a program memory (218) and a data memory (220) all interconnected by means of a bus (222), the processor being

operable under control of a program contained in the program memory to:

- o direct the storage of a content item;
- o direct the reproduction of the content item for review by a user;
- 5 o during reproduction of the stored content item, analyse the content item to identify the occurrence of a pre-determined condition;
- o where a pre-determined condition occurs, prompt the user for a response; and
- 10 o configure the storage capacity used for storing the content item according to the user response.

12. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 further comprising a tuner (224, 228) operable to provide a content item to the input (202).

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13. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 further comprising a player (230) operable to reproduce a content item from a removable media and provide the item to the input (202).

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14. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the store comprises a hard disk drive.

15. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the store comprises a removable media.

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16. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the presentation device (210) is a display and the reproduced content item and prompt signal are video signals for rendering on the display.

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17. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 further comprising a first interface (236) operable to communicate with an authorisation device (238).

18. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the first interface is a modem (236) for connecting to an Internet server (238) operable to authorise the reproduction of a content item held in store (204).
- 5 19. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 further comprising a second interface (240) operable to communicate with an archiving device (242, 244).
20. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 19 wherein the second interface is Ethernet (240) for communicating with a server (242) or removable media
10 recorder (244).
21. A record carrier comprising software operable to carry out the method of any of claims 1 to 10.
- 15 22. A software utility configured for carrying out the method steps as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10.